

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 OIC-02 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03
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LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 /108 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8476
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 08540

USEC

USOECD

DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR ASST. SEC. WEIL AND D. PETERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 057246

1. MISSION IS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY INCLINED TO AGREE
THAT NORWEGIAN DELEGATE GOETHE MIGHT BE SUITABLE REPLA-
CEMENT FOR IC CHAIRMAN WOODS. IN ANY CASE, THE ALTER-
NATIVES ARE PRETTY SLIM, CONSIDERING THE DEARTH OF
LEADERSHIP TALENT WITHIN CURRENT IC MEMBERSHIP.
MR. GOETHE HAS DEMONSTRATED INTELLIGENCE AND EXPERTISE
ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY ISSUES, BUT WE HAVE SOME DOUBT
ABOUT WHETHER HE HAS THE PERSPECTIVE TO ENABLE HIM TO
LINK THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING INDUSTRY WITH
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THE BROADER CONCERNS OF THE ORGANIZATION. IF GOETHE
PROVES TO BE THE MAN, WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A SPECIAL
EFFORT, TOGETHER WITH SECRETARIAT INDUSTRY DIRECTOR
BECKLER, TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO
HIM.

2. BASED ON MISSION OFFICER CONVERSATION WITH OTHER

DELEGATIONS AND SECRETARIAT, THERE ARE NO OTHER CANDIDATES IN THE FIELD. HOWEVER, BECKLER AND DESMOND HILL OF THE SECRETARIAT FEEL THAT MRS. BUCHNER-SCHOPF (GERMAN IC DEL) IS PROBABLY INTERESTED IN THE POSITION AND THEY THINK SHE HAS THE CAPACITY TO GROW IN THE JOB. FURTHERMORE, AS A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE IC, MRS. BUCHNER-SCHOPF'S (UNLIKE GOETHE) ELEVATION WOULD FOLLOW A NORMAL (BUT NOT INEVITABLE) OECD TRADITION. WASHINGTON MAY ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER SUPPORTING A GERMAN CANDIDACY WOULD BE AT ALL USEFUL IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HAVING SAID ALL THIS, THE MISSION WOULD VIEW A BUCHNER-SCHOPF CANDIDACY NEGATIVELY. SHE HAS BEEN A STAUNCH - AT TIMES BITTER - OPPONENT OF THE INVESTMENT EXERCISE WE INITIATED, AND SHE HAS SHOWN A RATHER RIGID SENSE OF BUREAUCRATIC TURF. (WHEN THE QUESTION OF STUDYING STEEL WAS RAISED IN THE IC, SHE ARGUED VEHEMENTLY THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE BY THE IC, IF IT WERE TO BE DONE IN OECD AT ALL.) SHE HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE, IN OUR VIEW, AS CHAIRMAN OF IC'S WP-1. A MINOR POINT. MRS. BUCHNER-SCHOPF IS OF LOWER RANK (MINISTERIAL COUNSELLOR) WITHIN THE GERMAN ECONOMICS MINISTRY THAN IS GOETHE.

3. CONSIDERING LIMITED TIME BEFORE APRIL IC MEETING,
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BECKLER SAID HE WOULD SEEK AGREEMENT AMONG BUREAU TO
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DEFER ELECTIONS UNTIL SUMMER MEETING. MISSION BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE USEFUL TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME TO IDENTIFY AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR BEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. (IN THIS REGARD, BECKLER EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING COMMERCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL ASSUME CHAIR. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY POTENTIAL CANDIDATE SHOULD BE PRESENT AT APRIL 4-6 MEETING.)

4. COMMENT: WE THINK PERHAPS GREATER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE PERSON FOR IC CHAIR, AND WONDER IF A LIMITED TALENT SEARCH MIGHT NOT BE CONDUCTED, EVEN OUTSIDE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE IC. MISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS POSSIBILITY WITH DAVID PETERSON NEXT WEEK.
SALZMAN

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